

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/978,345
Supplemental Amendment

Docket No. 9500-1

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to sincerely thank the Examiner for her thorough examination of the application. This supplemental amendment is in response to the teleconference between the counsel for Applicant and the examiner, in which the examiner gave favorable comments regarding the method claims (i.e. claims 1-16) filed July 12, 2004. No new matter is added. Although no fees are believed to be necessary, authorization is given to charge any deficiencies or credit any over payments to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

I. Patentability Over the Cited References

Previous Office Actions and Information Disclosure Statements have cited to WO 97/12542 to Hon ("Hon '542"), U.S. Patent No. 5,840,037 to Tochikubo et al. ("Tochikubo"), U.S. Patent No. 5,243,990 to Aung et al., ("Aung"), U.S. Patent No. 4,869,261 to Penaz ("Penaz"), U.S. Patent No. 6,132,383 to Chesney et al. ("Chesney"), and U.S. Patent to Hon et al. 4,993,422 ("Hon'422"). The Applicant respectfully submits that none of these references, either individually or in combination, teach or suggest a method or apparatus as recited in the claims. The references do not teach or suggest an apparatus for non-invasively measuring arterial blood pressure at a wrist of a patient having a wrist holding device, including a support board shaped to adapt to a flexing angle between a dorsal side of the wrist and a dorsal side of a hand attached to the wrist of between approximately 100 and 170 degrees, and a pressure bladder for applying an external pressure to the radial artery, wherein the pressure bladder comprises a compressing wall adapted to face the skin above the radial artery of the wrist and the surface area of the compressing wall is between one-fifth and one-third of the cross section area of the wrist. Also, none of the references teach or suggest a pressure bladder holding device for stably positioning the pressure bladder on the skin, and ensuring the center of the surface area of the compressing wall is above a point where the radial artery crosses a most protuberant spot on a volar aspect of the radius of the wrist.

II. Conclusion

Applicant has made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the cited references, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. In view of the

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foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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